



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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## New Hampshire Mensa

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# Etched in Stone

## LocSec Deb Stone

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As I write this column, our election for officers of our local group is winding down. The final due date for ballots is just over a week away, votes will be counted a few days later, and our new officers will be installed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. By the time you read this, all will be completed for this election cycle. Whatever the outcome for me, I want to thank those of you who took the time to vote. It's a simple thing to do, but it has a significant impact on the way our group works, and you should all

have a say in that.

Sometime after the middle of April, the last of the snow disappeared from my yard. We had some beautiful April days, and some not-so-beautiful April days. One day almost hit 90, and last night we had frost. I'm watching the buds start to come out and flowers starting to poke up out of the ground. I'm looking at a couple of trees, hoping that eventually I'll see some green on them (and won't have to have them cut down.) Sammi – that's my dachshund for any of you who don't know – has spring fever. We go out for walks and she just stops and stands there, with her nose up, sniffing and watching. She doesn't move. She doesn't walk. She just stands there. It drives me crazy! But that's April in NH.

Back to Mensa stuff. There was an LDW in RI at the beginning of May. While I wasn't able to attend this one, we did have several members go. I've been to quite a few over the years, and I always learn something. The Cape Gathering was also in May; right now I'm looking forward to good weather and lots of good company. The AG is approaching very quickly (early July.) Denver is a great place to visit, and for those who have never been to an AG – you just don't know what you are missing. For those who have been to AGs before, you already know! It's not too late to register; sign up now. And on the Gatherings front, you'll be happy to know that we'll have an official NHRG Chair named at the ExComm meeting in June, we have already signed the hotel contract for 2009 with the Radisson Nashua (where we were this year) and that plans are already well underway. Mark your calendars now and let's have the best turnout ever! February 13-15, 2009 – be there or be square! (Sorry, I just flashed back a few decades for a moment.)

I'm thinking of starting a new event to be held at my house in Bow. Anyone interested in a monthly poker game? Let me know via e-mail or a telephone call (see the back cover.) I miss playing regularly, as I did most recently while I lived in CA. If there is interest, I'll pick a weekend time that – I hope – doesn't interfere with other regular events.

I guess that's about it for this month. I'm hoping that the outcome of the election gives me the opportunity to keep writing these LocSec columns. If not, however, thanks for everything!

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## Maine Mensa Update

I cannot believe the new invigoration that Maine Mensa is achieving. Inactive members are re-activating, members are going to their first-ever events, and newbies are volunteering to jump in with 'both feet' in the 'rebirth process'.

Since February at the NH RG - Bangor has held its' second Book and Movie Event (Sue Flaherty and I went to see what it was like, and it was very fun!) Winslow had its' 'second Sunday' Winslow Dinnah (I went to that and met Scott Cayouette), Impolite Company at my house in Durham has been held several times with a great mix of people and opinions. Our Flagship Event – Trivia Night at Ri-Ra's in Portland has maintained its' high level of attendance as well as its' energy level. Although we have needed to split into 2 teams usually, it just means we have even more competition!

A new event has been added to the Portland slate called FIRST FRIDAY FUN. May 2<sup>nd</sup> was the inaugural event, boasting 7 attendees for the First Friday Art Walk in Portland followed by dinner. The next event in June is a very popular trip on the Casco Bay ferry to Peaks Island for dinner.

A letter was sent out from Lori Norris to all Maine Mensans, inviting them to join the process of the new-and-improved Maine Mensa, and introducing my name to them. The response has been really great. I have 35 names on my 'Short List' emails of people who want to be involved or at least know what is going on every step of the way.

We have scheduled By-Laws meetings for the month of May, and should have them ready for Lori Norris to look them over before we send them in to Corporate by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Then all of Maine Mensa will need to ratify them.

It is a very exciting time to be a part of Maine Mensa. If you want to be on the 'Short List' emails, let me know. If you want to make sure your email address is correct so you can at least be on the 'Update List', contact me also. Wooooo Hooooooo !!

Anne W. Allen  
Maine Mensa Acting Loc Sec  
[locsec@maine.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@maine.us.mensa.org) (I am impressed with this one!)



# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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Remembering the month of May. We had a great Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) to start the month in Rhode Island which 38 members from around the region attended. From reading the evaluations, it appears that we had something for everyone. I hope to have another LDW in 2009 hosted by Mensa of Northeastern New York. My only complaint was that everybody ate the healthy fresh fruit and vegetables so we had leftover chocolate and snack foods but, never fear, Boston 's Cape Cod Mini-RG was the following weekend so nothing went to waste. And speaking of the Cape , it was a pleasant restful weekend. I even dipped my toes into the salt water, invigorating – okay, it was cold!!

Also in May, my law firm had a “reorganization” and reorganized all the employees out of a job. So I am currently out of work and my husband, a teacher, is off for the summer. What to do? Instead of flying to the Denver AG, we plan on driving (about 1900 miles one-way) and seeing some of the country along the way. We'll camp in a few national parks and hope to utilize the SIGHT program for suggestions along the way. Fortunately, my son will keep the yard under control but I don't think we'll be planting a garden so come this fall I'll probably be having pepper withdrawal. I will, of course, remain in touch via e-mail assuming that we can find some wireless accessible sites along the way. Hopefully, I'll be able to send some photos to the Region 1 webpage. When I was in junior high school, my family took a three week trip from western Pennsylvania through the west. I spent a good part of that trip as one of four kids crammed in the back seat and, oh yeah, the air conditioning broke near Chicago . The upcoming trip is looking a little bit less crowded and I get to ride up front. We'll be seeing the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas , San Francisco , St. Louis , Yosemite, Mount Rushmore and many more attractions. Do you have a favorite spot? Let me know.

Speaking of the AG, it's not too late to register. About 1,500 people are registered as of now and more to come. Check out their webpage ([www.ag2008.us.mensa.org](http://www.ag2008.us.mensa.org)) for program details. Over 290 sessions are planned ranging from science to humor and everything in between. Interested in the workings of Mensa, attend the AMC meeting, the Annual Business Meeting and/or some of the dozens and dozens of LDW sessions scheduled. It's shaping up to be a heck of a party. Hope to see many Region 1ers at the AG. I will be hosting a Region 1 Meet & Greet on Thursday, July 3rd from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Stop by and see who else from the region made it to the AG.

*Lori*

# Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at [nh.us.mensa.org](http://nh.us.mensa.org). Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$40; a photo-ID is required.

Date	Proctor	Location
18, June 7:00 p.m.	John Bauman 603-883-7494	Nashua, NH
19, June 10:00 a.m.	Bromley Baril bromleybaril@comcast.net	Portsmouth, NH*

Due to the advanced nature of deadlines there may be other testing dates that did not make it to press in time for this issue. Please refer to the NH Mensa website (<http://nh.us.mensa.org>) or contact the Testing Coordinator (see back cover for contact information) for more up-to-date information.

\*Checks, or charge cards only in this location, please.

THE  
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**WANTED:** All publications of Mensa, Intertel, I.S.P.E., new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa *Bulletin*, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

Actively BUYING/trading collections/accumulations of old and new books, magazines, comics, sheet music, postcards, photos, prints, music CDs, adult/erotica in all forms.

Bring to The Antiquarian Bookstore at 1070 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1, adjacent to old Yoken's Restaurant), Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-5408 or call Walter Wakefield at 603-436-7250. New Hampshire's largest used/rare bookstore since 1973. Over 1/4 Million volumes in stock. Usually open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Sometimes at club events -- call.) Thank You.

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## ExComm Minutes of April 22, 2008

### Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt

Voting Members Present: John Bauman, Mark Becker, Yvonne Crocker, Wayne Eddy, Anne Majeske, Liz Modesitt, Tom Shiel, and Deb Stone

Others Present: Elizabeth Becker, Richard Conde, Holly Green, and Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 p.m.

There are 371 members in New Hampshire and 185 in Maine, for a total of 556 members.

Wayne Eddy gave a Treasurer's Report (which had been sent to the National Office). He also introduced a motion to have our fiscal year formally match National's, making it April 1 to March 31. Anne Majeske seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Deb Stone brought it up that at some point, we need to have our accounts audited by somebody not directly connected with them (i.e. not Deb or Wayne).

There was a discussion regarding the disposition of a check from the Nashua Radisson, and our policies/procedures for tipping.

The regional and national winners for scholarships should be on the MERF website in May. We need to hear from our Scholarship Chair who the local winners were, to start figuring out how to best present them with their scholarship.

The Nominating/Elections Committee reminded us of the May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for ballots. Counting will take place on May 14th.

Joan Bauman gave a brief report on the state of New Memberships and Testing. There is a regional competition to see who can have the largest increase in testing for the month of May from last year.

Recently, Deb Stone gave a presentation to the Nashua Rotary on Mensa and what we do.

There was no update on Young Mensans, Gifted Children, or Maine Mensa.

Since no members of Maine Mensa have come forward to request a subsidy to attend the LDW in Rhode Island, a motion was introduced by Anne Majeske to reimburse any ExComm members who attend up to \$250 in hotel costs. Yvonne Crocker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with two abstentions.

We have signed a hotel contract and the 2009 RG will be at the Nashua Radisson with a \$99 room rate. There are some issues to be worked out in terms of

security, alcohol and the overall space where we will be.

Holly Green expressed an interest in being RG Chairperson, with a possible theme of "Love Potion Number Nine". She will have a formal proposal at a future ExComm meeting.

Deb Stone will send a notice to the Mensa Bulletin, since we currently have the required minimum information do so. She will also make up a flyer to bring to the Cape Cod Mini-RG.

Wayne Eddy introduced a motion to adjourn. Tom Shiel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

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Have you  
considered a Membership?

**Contact the National Office  
for more information  
at 817-607-0060 x199 or email  
MemberServices@AmericanMensa.org**

# Loss of a Member

*I recieved this letter while putting this issue of the newsletter together. Editor*

Hey Mark,

Hopefully you have not put the June issue to bed yet, since I notice on the latest alpha sort that we have suffered a loss. Lydia Franz is listed by AML as being deceased. She lived in Owls Head, Maine, had been a member since May 1977 and had a DOB of 11 JAN 24.

John Bauman.

*I was also sent later a full obituary from MaineCoastNOW.com. The link is [http://www.maine coastnow.com/articles/2008/02/15/courier\\_-\\_gazette/obituaries/doc47b5db439b3f3407643253.txt](http://www.maine coastnow.com/articles/2008/02/15/courier_-_gazette/obituaries/doc47b5db439b3f3407643253.txt). Our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.*



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## ExComm Electon Results

The election committee counted ballots at Sue Barnes home on May 14th. The results were:

### LocSec:

Deb Stone	34
Walter Wakefield	16

### Members at Large:

Mark Becker	46
Yvonne Crocker	38
Thomas Shiel	37
Ann Majeske	35
David Melville	30

The winners will be announced, and offically take office ina business meeting, most likely immediately after the May ExComm meeting which is after the print deadline for this issue. *Editor*



# What's a Parent to Do?

By Fran Tishkevich

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What's a parent to do? With "No Child Left Behind" focusing teachers' attention on students who need improvement, that's the most common question I hear as GCC. Fortunately for us, New Hampshire and Maine still maintain some gifted programs in their schools. Other schools encourage student participation in program like Destination Imagination, Young Inventors and U.S. First. Even so, for many parents of gifted children, it seems as if our kids are being left behind, forced to do work they mastered several years ago, not challenged to develop their potential.

For these parents, it may appear that teachers and parents are adversaries. Parents feel that the teacher doesn't appreciate, or even recognize, their child's giftedness. Teachers feel that the parents are pushing their child too hard.

In reality, parents and teachers do agree on what they want for all children. Academic success, social and emotional stability, and positive self-concept are goals that all students should be encouraged to attain. How to achieve those goals, however, may place parents and teachers at odds. At home, a child may move freely from one activity to another, leaving projects, supplies and other materials behind as he or she moves to another activity. In school, to maintain order in the classroom, the teacher probably emphasizes routine, neatness and organization. The adults may not appreciate each other's approach, but gifted children can benefit from both creative, free exploration as well as structure.

Exhausted parents and overworked teachers can learn to appreciate each other's differing viewpoints on educating and nurturing gifted children. Building a trusting alliance, through communication, will benefit the parent and teacher as well as the gifted child. Positive, courteous, straightforward communication can encourage a positive reaction and collaboration on the part of both the parent and the teacher.

Strip and Hirsch describe a positive interaction between parent and teacher. The child is a quiet, complacent student, who is gifted in math. However, because she is so quiet, the teacher is probably unaware of her abilities, and requires her to complete worksheet after worksheet learning about money and counting change. Rather than an aggressive approach the parents used a team-oriented, respectful approach. "We've had Jessie tested because we thought she had some unusual abilities in math. The test results confirmed our suspicions. She's been the banker in our family games since she was in kindergarten. She knows denominations and how to make change. Is there any way to extend this unit of study for her? How can we work together so

that she can get what she needs while the other students get what they need as well?" The teacher had very little background in gifted education, but was willing and able to search out some alternative strategies for Jessie.

As advocates for their child, the parent's recognized her ability, and initiated the testing process. With test results in hand, their discussions about Jessie's abilities were based on more than subjective, parental pride.

Keeping the lines of communication open, and with a willingness to collaborate, parents can share research, articles, websites and serve as counselors for their gifted child. When parents and teachers collaborate, the result is always a positive situation for the child.

## References

Stephens, K. (1998, September). Promoting Gifted Education: A Parents Guide to Public Relations. *Parenting for High Potential*, 7, 15.

Strip, C., and Hirsch, G. (2001, Spring). Trust and Teamwork. *Gifted Child Today*, 24, 26.



## Notes from National

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Due to popular demand, we've added chat to AML's online Community. Visit anytime and see what other Mensans have to say about life, the universe and everything. We have a room that's an extension of the Firehouse forum for those heated conversations, another room to discuss all things Mensa, and a room for general chat where the answers to your questions are rarely 42.

(By the way, the Mensa Talk room is a great place to schedule an online meet & greet with any group of members, such as your SIG or your Local Group officers.)

While you're visiting the online Community, don't miss out on more than 22,000 discussion threads, the Officers Sharehouse, and the 2% Journals, where we present the latest and greatest from AML publications and members.

To join the fun, visit [www.community.us.mensa.org](http://www.community.us.mensa.org) <[www.community.us.mensa.org](http://www.community.us.mensa.org)> anytime, 24/7. And don't forget your towel.  
Howard Prince



# Calendar of Events

## June 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 Boston Brunch Bunch  Deadline for July events	02	03	04	05	06  Temperance League  First Friday Fun	07  Games Night
08 Second Sunday Brunch  Mid-Maine Dinnah	09	10	11	12	13  Brady Bunch	14  Impolite Company
15	16	17  Pre-FSM Dinner  FSM/Ex-C- omm	18  North of Boston Dinner	19	20  Winnipesupp- er  Spring Fling 21	21  Nashua Temp League  Boston MOG
22	23	24  Portland Dinner & Pub Quiz	25	26	27  Menstel	28  Impolite Company
29	30					

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor (calendar@nh.us.mensa.org) before the first of the month prior to the cover date. ♦ Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area. ♦ It is NH/ME Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. ♦ Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at group-sponsored events. ♦ Hosts of home-based events reserve the right to restrict attendance due to space or other appropriate reasons. ♦ While our hosts endeavor to provide accurate directions, attendees are well-advised to use their mapping medium of choice to determine their own best routes. ♦ In addition to being proper etiquette, R.S.V.P.'ing makes logical sense; it helps the host plan for the proper number of attendees and allows you to be kept abreast of any changes or cancellations.